



Open Space Steering Committee

Virtual Community Meeting
October 28, 2020

Agenda

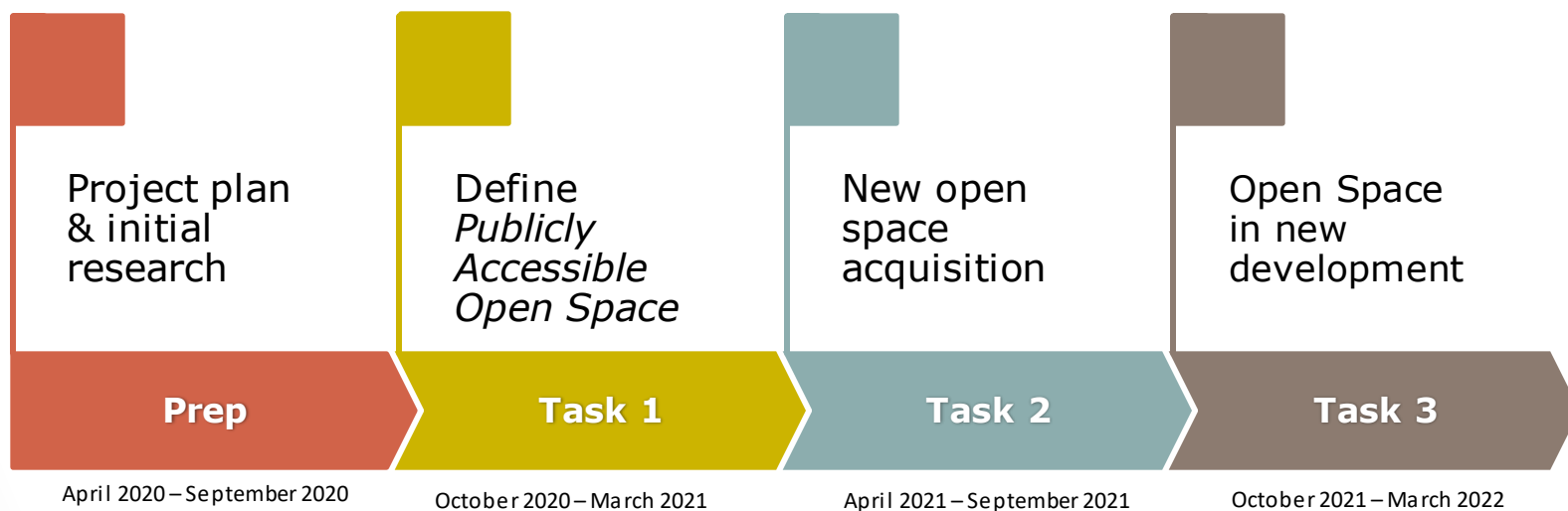
1. Zoom Ground Rules
2. Project Timeline
3. Open Space in Alexandria
4. Types of Open Space
5. Open Space Definition Discussion
6. Next Steps
7. Public Comment
8. Adjourn

Zoom Ground Rules





Project Timeline



Has anyone visited any of the example open spaces throughout the City?

If so, are there any observations you want to
share?

Types of Open Space

- **Publicly Accessible Open Space**
 - City Owned
 - Private owned with a public access easement
- Private Open Space



Open Space Definition

According to section 2-180 of the Zoning Ordinance, open and usable space is that portion of a lot at ground level which is:

- **(A) Eight feet or more in width;**
- **(B) Unoccupied by principal or accessory buildings;**
- **(C) Unobstructed by other than recreational facilities; and**
- **(D) Not used in whole or in part as roads, alleys, emergency vehicle easement areas, driveways, maneuvering aisles or off-street parking or loading berths.**

The purpose of open and usable space is to provide areas of trees, shrubs, lawns, pathways, and other natural and man-made amenities which function for the use and enjoyment of residents, visitors and other persons.

Note: The Zoning Ordinance does not distinguish between public, public-private, or private open space

Note: Above grade open space is currently considered open space – not reflected in the zoning ordinance

Intent of Publicly Accessible Open Space

As stated in the Open Space Master Plan (2003, updated 2017), it is an investment in a higher quality of life for ourselves and future generations.

- We seek to protect public open space because:
 - It connects the community: Our parks and facilities are the public's common ground that equitably bring together our vibrant and diverse community.
 - It improves well-being: Our programs and facilities motivate the community to make healthy choices and live active lifestyles through all stages of life and at all levels and abilities.
 - Its an investment in our environment: Our commitment to natural spaces provides physical, mental, and community benefits, while offering opportunities to engage with and conserve our natural resources.

Open Space Definition Discussion

What stood out to you from the definitions provided?

Is there anything missing from the definitions we provided?

**What do you think of the City's
definition of open space?**

**Is there anything missing from the
City's definition?**

What should not be considered open space?

**What characteristics do you think
are important in defining open
space?**



Thank you for your input!

Next Steps

- Using the information collected tonight, staff will develop suggestions for the definition of Publicly Accessible Open Space.
- Staff will send draft definitions to Committee approximately two weeks prior to December meeting to review.
- These suggestions will be the focus of our discussion next meeting.
- **Next Meeting:** December 9

What resources do you need from us?



Public Comment

- Please use the "Raise Your Hand" feature or "*9" to inform staff you would like to comment.
- Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Information & Questions

- Information
 - [Open Space Planning](#)
- Questions
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